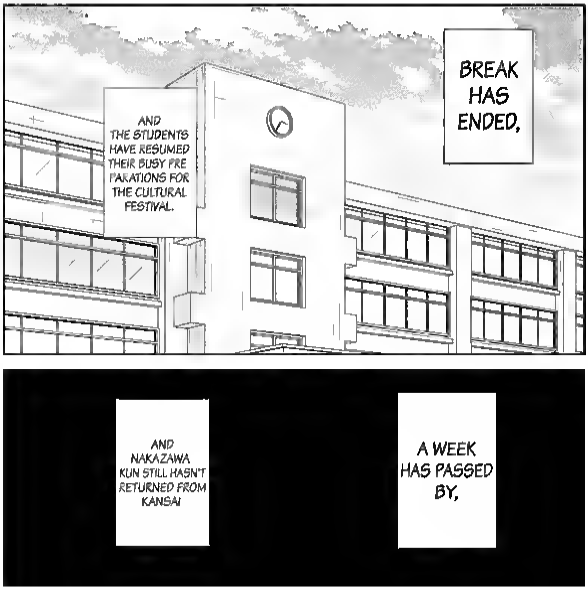
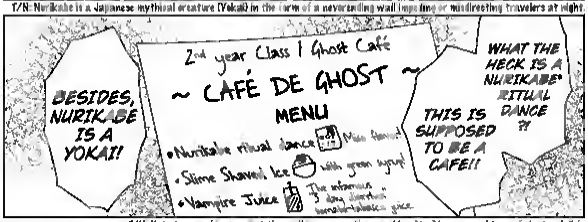
CHAPTER 19
YOUR VOICE


BREAK HAS ENDED,
AND THE STUDENTS HAVE RESUMED THEIR BUSY PREPARATIONS FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
A WEEK HAS PASSED BY,
AND NAKAZAWA KUN STILL HASN'T RETURNED FROM KANSAI

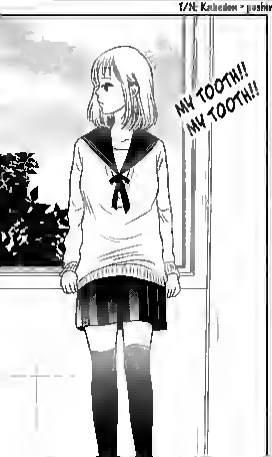
BAMBI and DHOLE
バンビ&ドール

ARE YOU KIDDING ME, MAEDA? WHAT'S WITH THIS MENU? THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN USE THIS!
YOU NEVER CHANGE!
WELL SINCE WE ENDED UP GOING WITH A GHOST CAFE, I FIGURED I HAD TO COME UP WITH A SPOOKY MENU TO GO ALONG WITH IT!

T/N: Nurikabe is a Japanese mythical creature (Yokai) in the form of a never-ending wall [appearing or misdirecting travelers at night

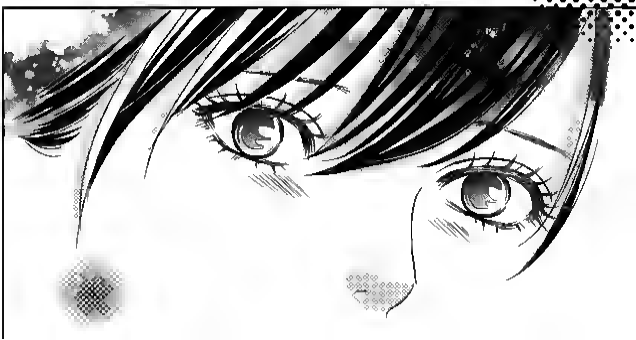

2nd year Class 1 Ghost Cafe
~ CAFÉ DE GHOST ~
MENU
• Nurikabe ritual dance
• Slime Shaved Ice with green syrup
• Vampire Juice
BESIDES, NURIKABE IS A YOKAI!
WHAT THE HECK IS A NURIKABE RITUAL DANCE ?!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A CAFE!!

T/N: Kabedon = pushing against the wall in a romantic way. Also, "don" is a general type of rice bowl dish.



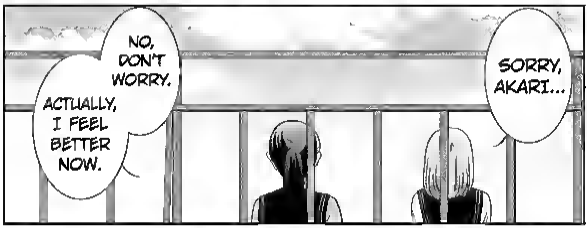
BAMBI, ARE YOU OKAY?
AH... SORRY.
I'M GOING TO GO BUY A DRINK.
AKARI-CHAN, WHAT COLOR SHOULD I PUT HERE?
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH RED.
CHATTER
CHITTER
CAFETERIA

BAM
牛乳
MILK
¥100
COLD
KA-CHING
BEEEP!
RATTLE
CLUNK

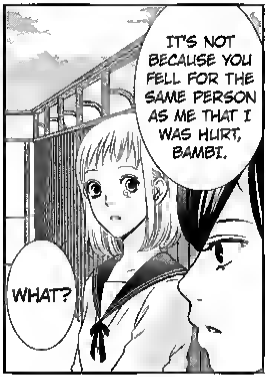
..PLEASE, HELP ME..
..AKARI..


...I GET IT NOW...
THAT'S THE REASON WHY NAKAZAWA-KUN SEEMED SO ABNORMALLY MATURE FOR A HIGH SCHOOLER
HOLD THE PHONE! WHAT AM I SAYING?!
THIS IS SUPER SERIOUS!
THAT WOULD MEAN RAICHI-KUN IS NAKAZAWA'S SON?!
A JUNIOR HIGH-SCHOOL DAD?!
THAT'S ALSO WHY I COULDN'T TELL YOU, AKARI.
EVEN IF I HAD NAKAZAWA-KUN'S HEART ALWAYS HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BELONG TO SACHI-SAN I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING THAT FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM WOULD ONLY BE PAINFUL

...AAH, RIGHT...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU WHEN I SAID I'D CONFESS TO HIM .
SINCE YOU COULDN'T TELL ME THEN.


SORRY, AKARI...
NO, DON'T WORRY.
ACTUALLY, I FEEL BETTER NOW.

THE THING THAT HURT THE MOST
WAS THAT YOU COULDN'T OPEN YOUR HEART TO KANA AND ME


IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU FELL FOR THE SAME PERSON AS ME THAT I WAS HURT, BAMBI.
WHAT?

YEAH I'M SORRY
I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW AFTER SEEING YOU CRY!
NOW I CAN TOTALLY GO ALL OUT AND SUPPORT YOU!
AKARI~
AHAHA~!
YES, CRY TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN DOING YOUR BEST ALL THIS TIME ON YOUR OWN

VSSHH...

OUCH!!
I'M SORRY, TETSU...
YOUR LIFE'S ALL MESSED UP BECAUSE OF ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT OTHER STUFF YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT THE BABY IN YOUR BELLY
WOW... IT LOOKS BAD.
I'M FINE, IT DOESN'T HURT.
DIDN T YOU JUST SAY OUCH?

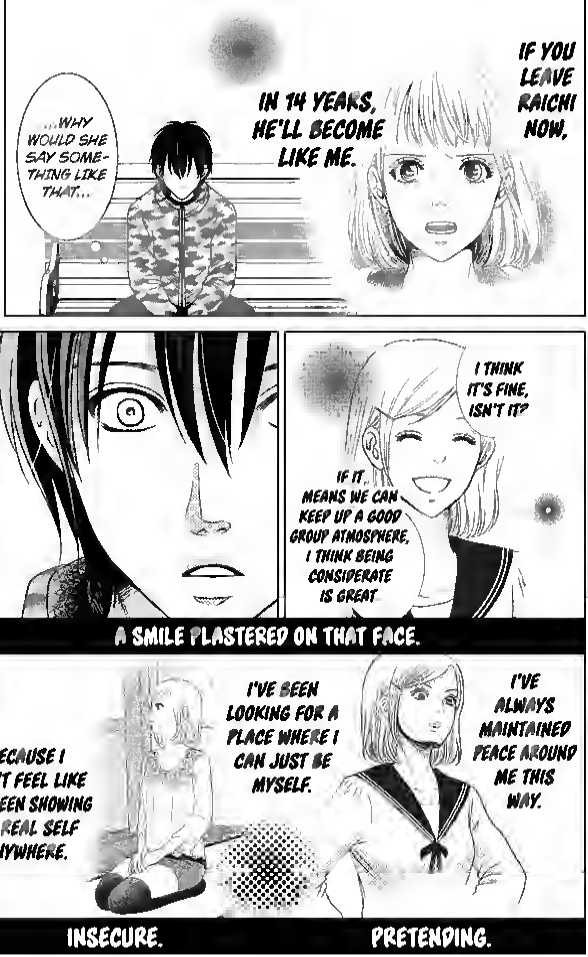
I KNOW I'M DOING SOMETHING CRAZY NO ONE KNOWS MYSELF BETTER THAN ME
MY PARENTS DIDN'T GET ALONG TO START WITH,
AND NOW BECAUSE OF MY LEAVING HOME, THEY'RE FIGHTING EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE
BUT YOU KNOW,
AS LONG AS THERE'S A SINGLE STRAND OF HOPE,
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP.
ESPECIALLY SINCE I MAY NEVER BEAR ANOTHER CHILD.
PLUS, I ALREADY WANT TO MEET THIS LITTLE ONE.
EVEN THOUGH HE OR SHE'S STILL THIS SMALL!
WEIRD, RIGHT?
YOU
DID NOTHING WRONG.

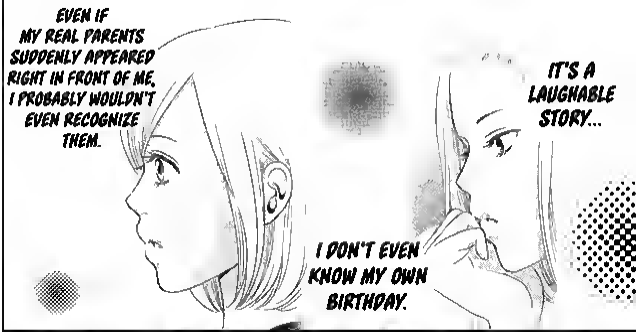
THERE'S A CHANCE IT'S MY KID TOO, SO THERE'S NO WAY I'D LEAVE YOU
YOU IDIOT...
IT COULD HAVE ALL BEEN RESOLVED IF I JUST SAID THAT IT'S BECAUSE OF MY RUNAWAY EX, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO..
IT'S IRONIC...
...THAT GUY WAS 25 YEARS OLD,
BUT YOU'RE SO MUCH MORE MATURE THAN HIM.
I WAS SCARED
TO BE HONEST I WAS SCARED OUT OF MY MIND
BUT SACHI WAS BEARING A FEAR FAR GREATER THAN MY OWN
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD MY TEENAGE SELF.

I WONDER IF...
RAICHI'S EATING WELL...

WANT TO GO GET ICE CREAM?
YEAH!

"AND THAT'S THAT HIS FATHER DISAPPEARED BEFORE HIS VERY OWN EYES!"
"BUT IN RAICHI'S EYES, THERE'S ONLY ONE TRUTH."
"IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE DOING THIS PURELY FOR YOUR OWN SELF-SATISFACTION."
"NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL IT'LL BE, OR HOW MANY TEARS YOU SHED."


IF YOU LEAVE RAICHI NOW,
IN 14 YEARS, HE'LL BECOME LIKE ME.
...WHY WOULD SHE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I THINK IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
IF IT MEANS WE CAN KEEP UP A GOOD GROUP ATMOSPHERE, I THINK BEING CONSIDERATE IS GREAT
A SMILE PLASTERED ON THAT FACE.
I'VE ALWAYS MAINTAINED PEACE AROUND ME THIS WAY.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE WHERE I CAN JUST BE MYSELF.
BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN SHOWING MY REAL SELF ANYWHERE.
PRETENDING.
INSECURE.


EVEN IF MY REAL PARENTS SUDDENLY APPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THEM.
IT'S A LAUGHABLE STORY...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY OWN BIRTHDAY.

BUT BEHIND THE POKER FACE...

SCREAMING.

WHY BOTHER GIVING BIRTH TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE?
IF WE CAN BE LET GO OF SO EASILY,
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
Cloud
Snow
Water
HUFF!
HUFF!
CLATTER

HUFF!
HUFF!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY OVER THERE?!
AND YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME AT ALL...!
WHAT HAPPENED TO RAICHI?
TETSU ...?!
IS THAT YOU?!
EH?
HE'S WITH SACHI'S PARENTS! I'M COMING HOME WITH HIM... EVEN IF IT MEANS I'VE GOTTA KNEEL DOWN AND BEG!

I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE...
WHETHER RAICHI IS MY TRUE SON OR NOT.
OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER AS FATHER AND SON ARE THE STRONGEST.
I CAN'T LET HIM GO!

I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
HOW PAINFUL IT WAS FOR HER PARENTS WHEN THEY LOST SACHI.
AND HOW WORRIED MY PARENTS MUST HAVE BEEN BACK THEN.
...IT'S GOING TO BE HARD.
I KNOW.
I MIGHT ALSO CAUSE STRESS FOR BOTH YOU AND RAICHI, TOO.
BUT I'LL DEFINITELY RETURN ALL THE FAVORS SO MAKE SURE TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, OKAY?
AND THAT'S WHY I'LL NEVER LET GO OF RAICHI'S HAND
I'LL WATCH OVER HIM AND MAKE SURE HE GROWS UP HEALTHY, FOR SACHI'S SAKE TOO, SINCE SHE CAN'T BE HERE.

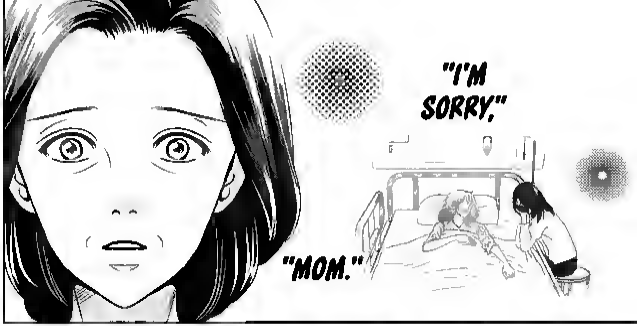
...THAT WAS WELL SPOKEN.
YOU'VE BECOME AN ADULT, TETSU.

IF I DID, IT'S ONLY THANKS TO YOU AND RAICHI.

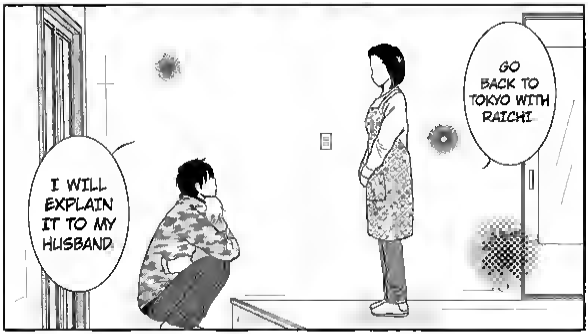
IF I EVENTUALLY BECOME A MAN WHO CAN HOLD HIS HEAD HIGH, THEN I'LL BRING RAICHI HOME TO SEE MOM AND DAD
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I'LL BOW MY HEAD DOWN TO THEM AND BEG FOR FORGIVE-NESS

RAICHI AND I BELONG OVER THERE
WITH YOU.

Cloud
Snow
Water

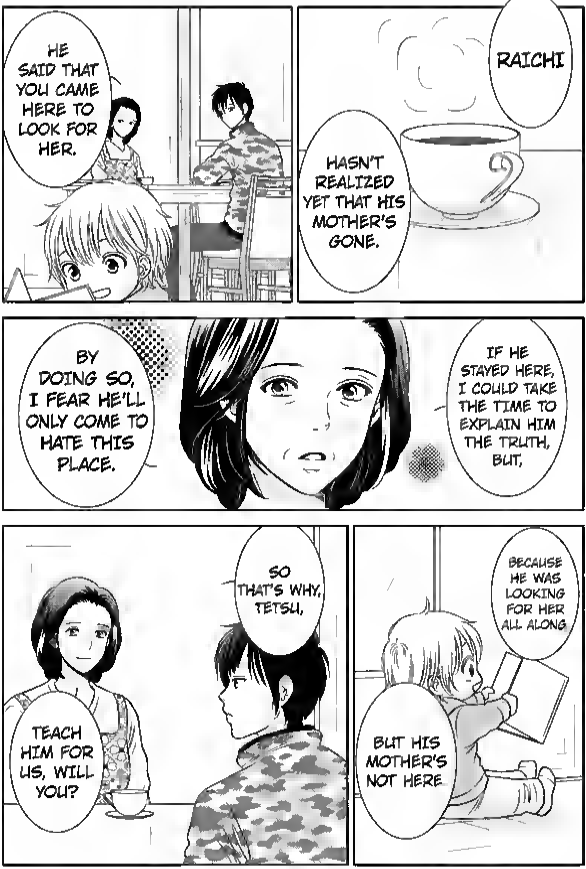

"I'M SORRY."
"MOM."

...TETSU-KUN.


GO BACK TO TOKYO WITH RAICHI
I WILL EXPLAIN IT TO MY HUSBAND

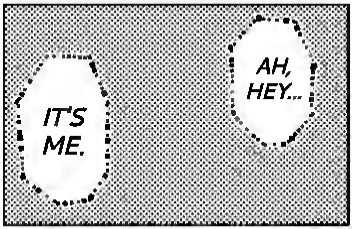
MEETING WITH RAICHI
REMINDED ME OF WHEN SACHI WAS LITTLE
WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT RAICHI'S AGE SHE GOT LOST AT THE SUPER-MARKET
SHE WAS LOOKING FOR ME, CRYING "MAMA, MAMA!"
... REALLY?
WHEN SHE FINALLY FOUND ME,
STILL CRYING, SHE GOT ANGRY AND ASKED "MAMA WHERE WERE YOU?!"
SHE KEPT TOUCHING MY FACE WITH HANDS AS TINY AS MAPLE LEAVES, SOBBING ALL THE WHILE

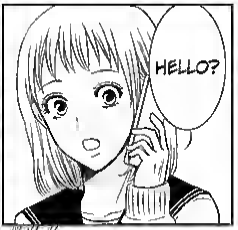
T/N Japanese maple leaves


HE SAID THAT YOU CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR HER.
RAICHI
HASN'T REALIZED YET THAT HIS MOTHER'S GONE.
BY DOING SO, I FEAR HE'LL ONLY COME TO HATE THIS PLACE.
IF HE STAYED HERE, I COULD TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLAIN HIM THE TRUTH, BUT,
SO THAT'S WHY, TETSU,
TEACH HIM FOR US, WILL YOU?
BECAUSE HE WAS LOOKING FOR HER ALL ALONG
BUT HIS MOTHER'S NOT HERE

TEACH HIM THAT SACHI WAS LOVED,
THAT SHE WAS A PERSON THAT LIVED IN THIS WORLD,
THAT EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE HER, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE WITH US IN OUR HEARTS
AND THAT YOU RE THERE FOR HIM, BY HIS SIDE.
AND PLEASE GO BACK TO TOKYO,
ATTEND SCHOOL PROPERLY,
AND GRADUATE PROPERLY, TOO.
THIS IS FOR THE BEST, ISN'T IT?
SACHI...
...I WILL.

JINGALING!
JINGALING?
.....?
A PUBLIC PHONE CALL?
Incoming
PUBLIC PHONE CALL
SLIDE


AH, HEY...
IT'S ME.

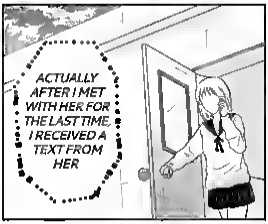

HELLO?

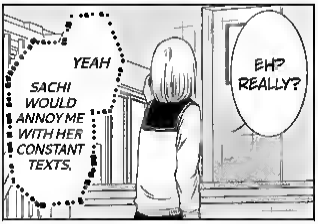
STILL IN MY HOME-TOWN.
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR TOO LONG.

NAKA-ZAWA-KUN?!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

...I USED TO HAVE ONE.

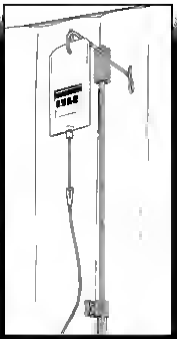
BYE BYE, BAMBI
RIGHT, YOU'RE USING A PUBLIC PHONE
HOLD ON, I'LL GO SOMEWHERE QUIET
YOU SHOULD GET A CELLPHONE ALREADY!


ACTUALLY AFTER I MET WITH HER FOR THE LAST TIME, I RECEIVED A TEXT FROM HER


EH? REALLY?
YEAH
SACHI WOULD ANNOY ME WITH HER CONSTANT TEXTS.

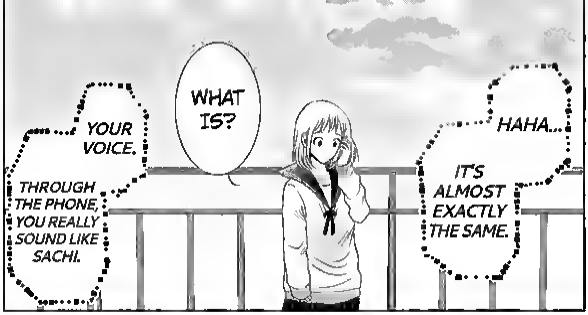
TETSU,
TAKE CARE OF RAICHI, OKAY?

SACHI, NO, NO!



BE STRONG, TETSU.
RIGHT?! SACHI!
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA DIE, RIGHT?!
'CAUSE I WON'T COME SEE YOU UNTIL YOU DO!
SHUT UP!
HURRY UP AND GET DISCHARGED FROM THIS HOSPITAL!
VBBB...
SLIDE...

RECEIVED EMAIL
From Sachi
Subject
CONTENT
ATTACHMENT
Stupid Tetsu.
SHE COULD HAVE BEEN CRYING...
OR SHE COULD HAVE BEEN ANGRY...
IT WAS HER FAVORITE PHRASE
ANYWAY THE LAST WORDS I GOT FROM HER WERE FROM THIS TEXT RATHER THAN THROUGH HER VOICE
SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION SHE HAD WHEN SHE SENT IT
RELY TOO MUCH ON CONVENIENCE, AND IT'LL ONLY INCREASE YOUR BURDEN.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WOULDN'T GET ONE...


YOUR VOICE.
THROUGH THE PHONE, YOU REALLY SOUND LIKE SACHI.
WHAT IS?
HAHA...
IT'S ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME.

YUP, THAT'S IT.
AHH, THAT TIME WHEN YOU SAID "IT'S ME," AND I ASKED IF THIS WAS A PRANK.
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TALKED ON THE PHONE, THOUGH

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE'D TALKED ON THE PHONE, WASN'T IT?
TO BE HONEST, AT FIRST I WAS KIND OF TAKEN ABACK.

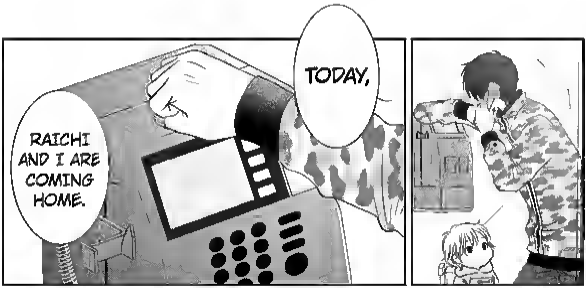
I'M SURE,
THAT'S WHAT SACHI WOULD SAY TO YOU NOW.
"THANK YOU,"
"TETSU."
"THANK YOU,"
"THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF RAICHI FOR ME,"
SHE'D SAY.
Cloud

"I'M SO GLAD,"
"I GOT TO MEET YOU AND RAICHI."
SHE WAS SO CHILDISH,
THAT SHE COULDN'T EVEN TELL ME "GOOD-BYE."

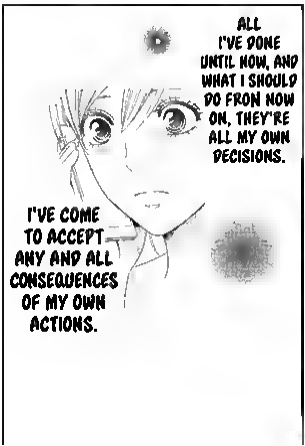
AHH,

ALL THIS TIME,

I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO SACHI.


TODAY,
RAICHI AND I ARE COMING HOME.

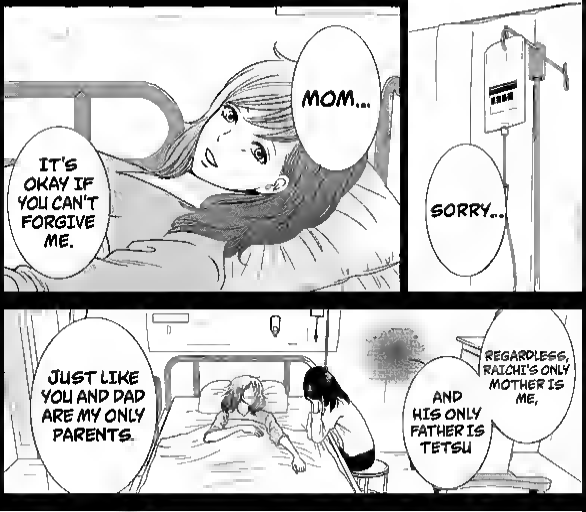
REALLY ...?
EVERYTHING YOU SAID BACK AT THE STATION WAS RIGHT
IF I CAN LET GO OF HIM SO HALF-HEARTEDLY THEN I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN CARE OF HIM TO BEGIN WITH


ALL I'VE DONE UNTIL NOW, AND WHAT I SHOULD DO FROM NOW ON, THEY'RE ALL MY OWN DECISIONS.
I'VE COME TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL CONSEQUENCES OF MY OWN ACTIONS.

BUT I MADE A DECISION,
TO PROTECT RAICHI, AND TAKE CARE OF HIM.

GOOD...
THIS IS...
THE NAKAZAWA-KUN I FELL IN LOVE WITH
THE BOY WHO FEELS DEEPLY FOR THOSE HE LOVES,
AND CHOSE THE PATH TO PROTECT RAICHI-KUN.
THANK YOU.
I DID NOTHING.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT SCHOOL.

I...
CAN NEVER MEASURE UP TO SACHI-SAN.
BUT...
AS LONG AS I CAN SEE HIS SMILE FROM NEARBY,
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME...


MOM...
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T FORGIVE ME.
SORRY...
REGARDLESS, RAICHI'S ONLY MOTHER IS ME,
AND HIS ONLY FATHER IS TETSU
JUST LIKE YOU AND DAD ARE MY ONLY PARENTS.

WRITING EMAIL
To Tetsu
Subject <No Subject>
CONTENT
ATTACHME
Stupid Tets
HURRY UP AND GET DISCHARGED FROM THIS HOSPITAL! 'CAUSE I WON'T COME SEE YOU UNTIL YOU DO!

IN HER FINAL MOMENTS,

BUT GOD, PLEASE,

NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW THE TRUTH.

I HOPE THAT YOU GRANTED HER
AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT OF HAPPINESS.

PLEASE,
HELP THE ONE I LOVE.

CHAPTER 19 / END.

Impatient
scans
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IMPATIENTSCANS

TRANSLATOR: SHARU
CLEANER: PLUMJUCIE
REDRAWER: PLUMJUCIE
TYPESETTER: NORA
QC: PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

FLOWERS AND HONEY